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Form for Evaluating Internet Information Resources

(NOTE: This form is not for evaluating productivity software/sites, simulation games/sites, or educational software/games/sites)

1. URL of Web page being evaluated: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/abrahamlincoln>
2. Primary use (students, teacher, parent, other,...): Teacher and Student

Questions 3-10 are about the site that is hosting your page.

3. Truncate the URL of the Web page. What is the domain name of the Web site?
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>
4. What is the name of Web site? *The White House – Washington [Official White House Website]*
5. What is the purpose or goal of this Web site? *Overall, this website appears to be a place for the Whitehouse to post their videos, current events or issues, opinions of current members, and basically everything that the Whitehouse wishes to make publically know about the current administration.*
6. What organization or individual created this site? *The Whitehouse administration.*
7. What affiliations/purpose/audience do they have that might create a built-in bias toward the information? What is that bias? (Note: every site has bias, you just have to be aware of what that bias is and be prepared to defend it or present information from other viewpoints.) *The bias of this site would be that the Whitehouse's current administration certainly has different viewpoints and that changes with each president – therefore they decide what's focused on and what isn't so due to their particular platforms and ideals.*
8. What other types of organizations link to this site? (Using the Google search engine, type *link:* and the Web site address (example: *link:www.website.com*)) *Blog sites arguing a given topic and educational sites with a particular goal in mind.*
9. Is there a way to provide feedback on the Web site and create an exchange with the author or Web site manager? *There is a contact us page, which gives one the opportunity to exchange words with the author or web site manager.*

Questions 10-12 are about the specific page that has information for your project/unit:

10. Who is the author of the page and does that person have valid credentials to present this information (the creator of the site is not always the author of a page within the site)? *“The Presidential biographies on WhiteHouse.gov are from “The Presidents of the United States of America,” by Frank Freidel and Hugh Sidey. Copyright 2006 by the White House Historical Association.” Frank Frediel had a degree in American political history and was the official biographer for Franklin D. Roosevelt for 26 years. Hugh Sidey had a B.A. from Iowa State College in Journalism.*

11. **What other references are cited for the information presented?** *None.*
12. **How old is the material on the page? Is it current or outdated (copyright year is not the same as the last update)?** *It was published in 1994, so it's nearly 20 years old.*
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Final evaluation questions:

13. **Are there ads linked to the page or the site that might make this page inappropriate for your audience? Are the ads “sticky” or static? If there are no ads, how is this Web site paid for (where do they get their money)?** *There are no ads, I do not see how it's paid for – but I imagine that it's using White House's budget's fund.*

14. **Is there other content on the site that appears affiliated with the information you've selected that might make this page inappropriate** (a Web site with great tutorials on how to make good movies with sections on how to make a documentary, a biography, an infomercial, etc. might also have a tutorial on making an inappropriate movie)?

The only thing to consider is that it's a political website, so it might serve to influence students either way.

15. **How helpful is this site/page to you? Does it have the information you need and feel confident using?** *It provided a brief overview of Lincoln's life and his achievements, which would help to introduce students to the topic or help a teacher organize their thoughts about Lincoln.*
16. **Describe how this Web site/page might be used in your project/unit:** *This page might be used as both a resource to get a feel for Lincoln's life and the consequences of certain actions that he took – as well as helping the students see how to summarize A LOT of information into a tiny bit of space, which is a big part of the final video project due to being concise for time.*
17. **Reviewing your answers above, is this a good page/site to use for your project/unit? Why or why not?** (NOTE: Some questions above may not apply to your page; there is no rule as to how many “correct” answers are needed for a page to be good or what constitutes a “bad” page. You just need to be able to justify your choices and the information above can provide good support.)

This site would be good to use because it can be informative towards an important character in the Civil War, who caused much change with his actions. Moreover, this website can be used as an example for the students in how to effectively summarize material in an engaging, curt fashion.